

Serial No. 09/707,815
Docket No. NEC DP-689
Amendment B

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors and to employ more idiomatic English. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify the invention, and claims 2, 5 and 14 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments. The allowance of claims 19-22 is noted, with thanks.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Keiji Japanese Patent 09-093470 in view of Hidekage (Japanese Patent 08-125924) and Azim (U.S. Patent 6,137,533), claims 6 and 7 as obvious over Keiji in view of Hidekage, Azim and Lee (U.S. Patent 5,301,026), claims 10, 13, 14, 17 and 18 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Keiji in view of Hidekage, Azim, and Nishikawa (U.S. Patent 4,566,074), and claims 15 and 16 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over Keiji in view of Hidekage, Azim, Nishikawa and Lee, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to specify that the A/D converter receives a bit number converting signal generated by the system controller and generates a designated quantization bit number from said signal. None of the Examiner's cited references teach this feature. The A/D converter 16 in Keiji does not receive a signal generated by a central controller (Figure 1). Hidekage uses controller 105 to output a condition of bit selection generator 116 and compared that to the maximum number of bits the A/D converter can output (Abstract; paragraphs 21, 23). Azim does not teach a controller that outputs a signal to an A/D converter (Figure 1). Nishikawa is concerned with a scintillation camera that converts gamma ray signals to digital signals (Abstract). Finally, nowhere does Lee teach a system controller that outputs a signal to an A/D converter (Figure 1). Thus, no combination of the applied art could achieve or render obvious claims 1 and 10, or the several claims directly or indirectly

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dependent thereon, and none of the Examiner's art rejections can be maintained. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 10 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to EXAMINER Gevell V. Selby of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9306, on April 27, 2005 from Tucson, Arizona.

By SL SB

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